(c) whether there is any proposals to bring matters of cheque bounce under the jurisdiction of consumer courts; and

(d) if not, whether Government proposes to consider any such proposal to reduce the burden of regular courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Most of the High Courts have informed that it is a fact that there is a large number of cases pending in various courts related to bouncing of cheques.

(b) to (d) Time bound disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of judiciary. However, in order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures. The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 was amended in December, 2002, incorporating certain provisions relating to 'Dishonour of Cheques' which *inter-alia*, provided insertion of a new Section 143 providing for summary trial of cases under the Act and also laying down that every endeavour shall be made by the court to conclude the trial within six months of filing the complaint.

Pending cases and vacant posts in courts

3618. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in different courts in the country including High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether cases are pending because many posts of Judges and lying vacant;

(c) if so, the details of vacant posts in different courts State-wise; and

(d) whether the setting up of Fast Track Courts has helped in reducing the number of pending cases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Details indicating the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Subordinate Courts are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Vacancies in the posts of judges is also one of the reasons for the cases pending in the courts. Details indicating the number of Vacant posts of judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Subordinate Courts and given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Setting up of Fast Track Courts has helped in reducing the number of pending cases. As per the information received from the States, 19,43,342 cases have been disposed of by the Fast Track Courts out of 26,73,964 cases transferred to them.

Statement-I

A. The number of pending cases in different courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	609895	209789	819684

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	137990	15257	153247
3.	Bombay	330399	39579	369978
4.	Calcutta	243222	40015	283237
5.	Chhattisgarh	52130	23211	75341
6.	Delhi	103273	36054	139327
7.	Gujarat	85862	29532	115394
8.	Gauhati	52838	7493	60331
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21312	6378	27690
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	44804	1836	46640
11.	Jharkhand	28302	21668	49970
12.	Karnataka	89753	16103	105856
13.	Kerala	88167	24371	112538
14.	Madras	392824	36008	428832
15.	Madhya Pradesh	122331	59294	181625
16.	Orissa	209481	24076	233557
17.	Patna	71749	34693	106442
18.	Punjab & Haryana	210171	47645	257816
19.	Rajasthan	164369	53135	217504
20.	Sikkim	66	14	80
21.	Uttaranchal	24761	7133	31894
	TOTAL	3081991	732507	3816983

B. Cases Pending in Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.07

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs.	As on	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total pendency
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.12.07	478046	473608	951654
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.12.07	461	4828	5289
3.	Assam	31.12.07	71851	146636	218487
4.	Bihar	31.12.07	252874	1120549	1373423
5.	Chhattisgarh	31.12.07	50531	217354	267885
6.	Goa	31.12.07	18750	15181	33931
7.	Gujarat	31.12.07	728305	1691747	2420052
8.	Haryana	31.12.07	220552	335882	556434
9.	HP	31.12.07	62262	80648	142910
10.	J & K	31.12.04	48132	83812	131944

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Jharkhand	31.12.07	44284	228034	272318
12.	Karnataka	31.12.07	564276	535001	1099277
13.	Kerala	31.12.07	379876	565531	945407
14.	M.P.	31.12.07	194535	826048	1020583
15.	Maharashtra	31.12.07	372625	3073157	3445782
16.	Manipur	31.12.07	3057	3552	6609
17.	Meghalaya	31.12.07	3903	6807	10710
18.	Mizoram	30.9.07	1562	4576	6138
19.	Nagaland	31.12.07	1799	3566	5365
20.	Orissa	31.12.07	181721	834805	1016526
21.	Punjab	31.12.07	276798	315287	592085
22.	Rajasthan	31.12.07	286598	842687	1129285
23.	Sikkim	31.12.07	203	585	788
24.	Tamil Nadu	31.12.07	499018	499028	998046
25.	Tripura	31.12.07	6146	30557	36703
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31.12.07	1229650	3644965	4874615
27.	Uttarakhand	31.12.07	31028	110017	141045
28.	West Bengal	31.12.07	496463	1698168	2194631
29.	A & N Island	31.12.05	1291	46385	47676
30.	Chandigarh	31.12.07	20566	82044	102610
31.	D & N Haveli	30.6.04	550	2457	3007
32.	Daman & Diu	30.6.04	752	860	1612
33.	Delhi	31/12/06	141737	718602	860339
34.	Lakshadweep	31.12.07	91	107	198
35.	Pondicherry	31.12.07	13449	8845	22294
	TOTAL :		6683742	18251916	24935658

Statement-II

A. Details indicating the number of vacant posts of judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts

As on 16/04/2008

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
Supreme Court		26	25	1
	HIGH COURTS			
1.	Allahabad	95	68	27
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	8

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bombay	61	60	1
4.	Calcutta	50	40	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	7	1
6.	Delhi*	40	40	0
7.	Gauhati	23	21	2
8.	Gujarat	42	31	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	10	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	11	3
11.	Jharkhand	12	9	3
12.	Karnataka	40	38	2
13.	Kerala	29	26	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	42	0
15.	Madras	46	45	1
16.	Orissa	20	19	1
17.	Patna*	31	27	4
18.	Punjab & Haryana	43	43	0
19.	Rajasthan	40	36	4
20.	Sikkim	3	2	1
21.	Uttarakhand	9	8	1
	TOTAL:	697	614	83

*Acting Chief Justice

B. District & Subordinate Courts (As on 30-09-07)

Sl. No.	Concerned State/ Union Territory	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Uttar Pradesh	2172	1659	513
2.	Andhra Pradesh	869	694	175
3a.	Maharashtra	1715	1509	206
3b.	Goa	49	38	11
4.	West Bengal and A&N Islands	706	556	150
5.	Chhattisgarh	241	223	18
6.	Delhi	415	322	93
7.	Gujarat	952	791	161
8a.	Assam	289	254	35
8b.	Meghalya	9	5	4
8c.	Tripura	80	59	21
8d.	Manipur	34	27	7

1	2	3	4	5
8e.	Nagaland	25	24	1
8f.	Mizoram	43	23	20
8g.	Arunachal Pradesh	339	300	39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	126	115	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	202	176	26
11.	Jharkhand	503	437	66
12.	Karnataka	863	646	217
13a.	Kerala	429	411	18
13b.	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
14a.	Tamil Nadu	765	672	93
14b.	Puducherry	20	15	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1221	911	310
16.	Orissa	484	394	90
17.	Bihar	1361	820	541
18a.	Punjab	328	270	58
18b.	Haryana	308	240	68
18c.	Chandigarh	20	20	0
19.	Rajasthan	820	684	136
20.	Sikkim	15	9	6
21.	Uttarakhand	266	132	134
	TOTAL :	15672	12439	3233

Increasing the posts of Judges in Madras High Court

3619. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Justice of Madras High Court has conveyed his request to the State and Central Government to increase the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges;

(b) whether the Madras High Court has the second largest caseload and biggest influx of fresh cases but has the least number of Judges;

(c) whether the Chief Justice of India has also clarified that the judiciary alone is not to be blamed for the delays and the Government is yet to act on increasing the number of Judges and the allocations; and

(d) by when a final decision for increasing the strength of Judges would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the information available, there were 426347 cases pending in the Madras High Court as on 30.9.2007. As a result of the review of judge strength undertaken during the year 2006-2007 in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, 152 posts of